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Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
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Commission Secretary:

Our members are receiving spam text messages from an organization that they do not recognize or support. While a text message may seem like no big deal, these individual messages have a real cost – both financially and in terms of how they impact the electoral process.

Our main concern is that our members must pay for their own mobile phone service, which includes text messaging. While some may have unlimited text messaging packages, many of our members may not. Regardless, all of our members that pay for a mobile phone are now forced to cover the cost for these unsolicited messages. These abuses disproportionately impact low-income families, students, minorities and other groups because a higher proportion of these communities tend to use a mobile phone as their only phone.

Additionally, these text message abuses threaten to sour voters on what is a very promising technology. Currently, text messaging is a low-cost way for us to reach out to our membership and to reach out to voters in general – particularly younger members who don't watch television advertising and respond better to text messaging and other forms of technology.

We work to ensure that only the members of our organization who want to receive text messaging will receive these messages from us. We understand that there are legal ways to opt our membership in, and we abide by these rules. For anonymous organizations to ignore these regulations is a slap in the face to groups like ours that respect our members and respect these rules, and we believe that spam text messaging should not go unpunished.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Charles M. Loveless
Director of Federal Government Affairs

CLM:brm

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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